

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method in a data processing system for requesting a digital certificate from a certificate authority and archiving an encryption key outside of the certificate authority, comprising:

receiving a request from a user for a digital certificate; and

receiving an indication of proof of archival of the user's encryption key associated with the request, wherein the user's encryption key is archived under control of an entity other than the certificate authority.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending a digital certificate associated with the user in response to the received request and indication of proof of archival.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving the user's encryption key.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the encryption key is encrypted during transmission, and wherein the method further comprises the step of decrypting the encrypted encryption key.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the encryption key is the user's private key.

LAW OFFICES

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6. The method of claim 4, wherein the data processing system comprises a data recovery manager that receives and manages archiving of the encryption key, and wherein the encryption key is encrypted during transmission using the data recovery manager's public transport key.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of proof of archival is digitally signed, and wherein the method further comprises the step of verifying a digital signature on the indication of proof of archival.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the data processing system includes a data recovery manager that receives and manages archiving of the encryption key, and wherein the indication of proof of archival is digitally signed by the data recovery manager.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the user's encryption key is archived under control of the user.

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10. A method in a data processing system for requesting a digital certificate from a certificate authority and archiving an encryption key outside of the certificate authority, comprising:

5 sending a request for a digital certificate, the request having an indication of proof of archival of an encryption key for the user; and receiving a digital certificate in response to the request.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of digitally signing the indication of proof of archival of the encryption key.

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12. A method in a data processing system for archiving an encryption key by an entity other than a certificate authority, comprising:

receiving an encryption key for archiving;

archiving the received encryption key;

creating an indication of proof of archival of the received encryption key; and

sending the indication of proof of archival.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of digitally signing the indication proof of archival.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the archiving step further comprises the step of archiving the received encryption key under control of a user.

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15. A data processing system for requesting a digital certificate from a certificate authority and archiving an encryption key outside of the certificate authority, comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor configured to execute the program instructions to receive a request from a user for a digital certificate, and receive an indication of proof of archival of the user's encryption key associated with the request, wherein the user's encryption key is archived under control of an entity other than the certificate authority.

16. A data processing system for requesting a digital certificate from a certificate authority and archiving an encryption key outside of the certificate authority, comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor configured to execute the program instructions to send a request for a digital certificate, the request having an indication of proof of archival of an encryption key for the user, and receive a digital certificate in response to the request.

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17. A data processing system for archiving an encryption key by an entity other than a certificate authority, comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor configured to execute the program instructions to receive an encryption key for archiving, archive the received encryption key, create an indication of proof of archival of the received encryption key, and send the indication of proof of archival.

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18. A data processing system for requesting a digital certificate from a certificate authority and archiving an encryption key under control of an entity other than the certificate authority, comprising:

a registration manager configured to receive a digital certificate request including a user's encryption key, send the user's encryption key, and in response receive an indication of proof of archival;

a data recovery manager configured to receive the user's encryption key, send the user's encryption key to a database controlled by an entity other than the certificate authority for archiving, create an indication of proof archival and send the indication of proof of archival;

a certificate authority configured to issue a digital certificate when it is determined that an indication proof of archival was received; and

a database, under control of an entity other than the certificate authority, configured to receive and archive the user's encryption key.

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19. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for requesting a digital certificate from a certificate authority and archiving an encryption key outside of the certificate authority, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a request from a user for a digital certificate; and
receiving an indication of proof of archival of the user's encryption key associated with the request, wherein the user's encryption key is archived under control of an entity other than the certificate authority.

10 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the step of sending a digital certificate associated with the user in response to the received request and indication of proof of archival.

15 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the step of receiving the user's encryption key.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the encryption key is encrypted during transmission, and wherein the method further comprises the step of decrypting the encrypted encryption key.

20 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the encryption key is the user's private key.

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24. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the data processing system comprises a data recovery manager that receives and manages archiving of the encryption key, and wherein the encryption key is encrypted during transmission using the data recovery manager's public transport key.

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25. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the indication of proof of archival is digitally signed, and wherein the method further comprises the step of verifying a digital signature on the indication of proof of archival.

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26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the data processing system includes a data recovery manager that receives and manages archiving of the encryption key, and wherein the indication of proof of archival is digitally signed by the data recovery manager.

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27. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the user's encryption key is archived under control of the user.

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28. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for requesting a digital certificate from a certificate authority and archiving an encryption key outside of the certificate authority, the method comprising the steps of:

sending a request for a digital certificate, the request having an indication of proof of archival of an encryption key for the user; and

receiving a digital certificate in response to the request.

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29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises the step of digitally signing the indication of proof of archival of the encryption key.

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30. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for archiving an encryption key by an entity other than a certificate authority, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an encryption key for archiving;

archiving the received encryption key;

creating an indication of proof of archival of the received encryption key; and

sending the indication of proof of archival.

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31. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises the step of digitally signing the indication proof of archival.

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32. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the archiving step further comprises the step of archiving the received encryption key under control of a user.

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means for receiving a request from a user for a digital certificate; and

means for receiving an indication of proof of archival of the user's encryption key associated with the request, wherein the user's encryption key is archived under control of an entity other than the certificate authority.

[illegible]